

Appl. No : 09/993,296
Filed : November 14, 2001

REMARKS

Pursuant to the above claim amendments, Applicant has canceled Claim 19. This cancellation is being made without disclaimer as Applicant intends to pursue that claim in a continuation application. Claims 1-18, 20-33 remain pending for consideration.

Claim Rejections

Claims 20, 22-25, and 27-33 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-9 and 12-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,558. Applicant is submitting a terminal disclaimer herewith to overcome the rejection and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 20, 22-25, and 27-33.

Claims 21 and 26 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-9 and 12-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,558 in view of Martin. The terminal disclaimer filed concurrently herewith overcomes the instant claim rejection, and Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 21 and 26 and further requests allowance of the same.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowability of Claims 1-18.

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CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the above amendment, Applicant has canceled Claim 19. Applicant is submitting a terminal disclaimer herewith to overcome the claim rejections based upon the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claims 1-18 and 20-33 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests an indication of the same.

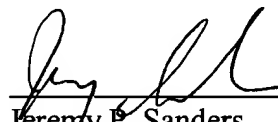
If any pending issues remain or if any issues require further clarification, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call Applicant's representative at the number indicated below in order to promptly resolve such issues. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 17 Feb 2004

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